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Asiatic Crabapples. The flowering of these trees makes one of the principal spectacular displays of the year in the Arboretum; and of these displays only that made by the Lilacs attracts a larger number of visitors. Most of the plants will be in flower when this Bulletin reaches its Boston readers who can see these trees and shrubs on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills Road entering by the Forest Hills gate, and in a larger and more complete collection at the eastern base of Peter's Hill. Among these Crabapples are a number of small trees which should find a place in every northern garden for few trees which are hardy in New England are more beautiful when covered in May with their white, pink or rose-colored flowers, or in autumn when the branches are loaded with their brilliant red, scarlet or yellow fruits.

Malus baccata mandshurica is the earliest of these Crabapples to open its flower-buds in the Arboretum. A native of Manchuria, Korea and northern Japan, it is the eastern form of the better known *Malus baccata*, the Siberian Crabapple, which reached Europe more than a century ago and for a long time was one of only two Asiatic Crabapples known in western gardens. The Manchurian form as it grows in the Arboretum is a tree twelve or fifteen feet tall and broad; the flowers, which are produced in profusion, are pure white, rather more than an inch across, and more fragrant than those of any other Asiatic Crabapple. The fruit is round, yellow or red, and not larger than a large pea. A form of this tree (var. *Jackii*) brought from Korea by Mr. Jack in 1905 is distinguished by its large, dark scarlet fruit. The Manchurian Crabapple, which is still rare in this country, for the fragrance of the flowers alone should find a place in all collections.

Malus cerasifera. This is another of the early flowering Crabapples and is believed to be a hybrid between *M. baccata* and *M. prunifolia*. Planted in good soil and allowed sufficient room for development it will grow into a large shapely tree with a broad, round-topped, irregular head of spreading often drooping branches. The flowers are fragrant and larger than those of the other Asiatic Crabapples, with pure white or occasionally greenish petals; and the fruit, which varies in size on different plants, is globose and dull red.

Malus micromalus, which is also an early flowering plant, is one of the least known of the Crabapples. It was first sent to Europe from Japan by Von Siebold in 1856 under the name of "Kaido," a name which in Japan belongs to *Malus Halliana*. In Japan this tree is rare and known only in gardens, and by Japanese botanists is believed to have been introduced into their country from China and to be a hybrid possibly of *M. baccata* with *M. spectabilis*. The habit of this plant is more pyramidal than that of other Crabapples and this habit makes the plants conspicuous in the collection. The largest plants are covered this year with their small, pale pink, delicate flowers which will be followed by light yellow fruit, often rose color on one cheek. A plant of *Malus micromalus* first came to the Arboretum from the Paris Museum in 1888 and the plants now growing here are descendants of that plant. It is still one of the rarest of the Asiatic Crabapples in western gardens.

Malus Halliana, with its form *Parkmanii* which has double flowers, is perhaps the most distinct of all Crabapples in the color of its rose-red flowers. It is a shapely small tree, with erect and spreading stems forming a narrow vase-like head, and dark green leaves. The globose reddish fruit is not larger than a small pea. The Parkman Crab was among the first Japanese trees to reach this country direct, having been sent by Dr. George R. Hall in 1862 to Boston where it was first planted in Mr. Francis Parkman's garden on the shores of Jamaica Pond. This Crabapple is a favorite in Japanese gardens where it is known as "Kaido," but has not been found in a wild state. Whatever its origin the Parkman Crab is one of the most distinct and beautiful of the small trees which flower here during the early days of May.

Malus theifera from central and western China is closely related to Hall's Crab. It is one of Wilson's introductions through seeds sent to Veitch in 1900 and in 1907 to the Arboretum where it is now twelve feet high. It has upright, spreading, rather zigzag branches which are densely studded with short spurs which bear numerous clusters of flowers rose-red in the bud, becoming pale and almost white when fully expanded. In central China the peasants collect the leaves and from them prepare the palatable beverage which they call red tea. From this fact the specific name is derived.

Malus floribunda, by many persons considered the most beautiful of Crabapples, was introduced into Holland by Von Siebold in 1853 from Nagasaki, Japan. The place where it grows wild still remains unknown, although probably it is one of the high mountains of Kyushu. Japanese botanists and nurserymen confuse it with the Parkman Crab, and

Wilson has not seen it in Japanese gardens. It is a broad, round-topped, treelike shrub sometimes twenty-five feet tall with stout branches and slender arching and pendent branchlets. The clustered flowers are white when fully expanded, rose-red in the bud, and as they open in succession the two colors make a beautiful contrast. The fruit is about the size of a pea, yellowish or yellowish brown; from some plants it falls in the early autumn, on others it remains on the branches during the winter or until devoured by birds who are particularly fond of it. Several plants with persistent fruit are growing close to the Administration Building in the Arboretum, and during the winter are filled with numerous species of birds, including pheasants who are fond of these Crabapples. A hybrid between *M. floribunda* and perhaps *M. cerasifera* appeared in the Arboretum among a lot of seedlings of *M. floribunda* in 1883 and has been named *M. Arnoldiana*. It has the habit and abundant flowers of *M. floribunda*, but the flowers and fruit are nearly twice as large. It is a handsomer plant than *M. floribunda* and one of the most beautiful of the Crabapples in the Arboretum.

Malus Sieboldii is another of the species introduced from the gardens of Japan into Europe by Von Siebold in 1853. It is a low, dense shrub of spreading habit with the leaves on vigorous branchlets three-lobed, small flowers white tinged with rose in color, and small yellow fruits. A good specimen may be seen on the left hand side of the Forest Hills Road. Von Siebold's Crab is really a dwarf form of a species common on the Korean Island of Quelpaert, and on the mountains of central Japan and Hokkaido, to which the name var. *arborescens* has been given. This is a tree often thirty feet or more tall, with ascending, wide-spreading branches, twiggy branchlets and minute fruit yellow on some and red on other individuals. Although the flowers are small, they are produced in immense quantities, and this species has the advantage of flowering later than the other Asiatic Crabapples. Another variety of Von Siebold's Crab (var. *calocarpa*), raised in the Arboretum from seed sent in 1890 from the Nikko mountains of Japan by Dr. W. Sturgis Bigelow of Boston, has bright red fruits each half an inch in diameter. When in fruit this is the handsomest of the Japanese Crabapples.

Malus Sargentii from salt marshes in the neighborhood of Muroran in northern Japan, where it was discovered by Professor Sargent in 1892, has qualities which give it a field of usefulness peculiarly its own. This species is a dwarf with rigid and spreading branches, the lower branches flat on the ground; it is well suited for covering slopes and banks. The flowers are in umbel-like clusters, saucer-shaped, round and of the purest white, and are followed by masses of wine-colored fruit which is covered by a slight bloom and unless eaten by birds remains on the plants well into the spring.

Malus spectabilis, cultivated by the Chinese from time immemorial and introduced from Canton in 1780, was the first of the Asiatic Crabapples cultivated in Europe. Like several other species it is not yet known in a wild state but is probably of hybrid origin. It is a tree

from twenty-five to thirty feet high, with a wide vase-shaped crown made of numerous spreading and ascending branches and short branchlets. The flowers are pale pink, more or less semidouble and very fragrant: and the fruits are pale yellow, nearly globose, and about three-quarters of an inch in diameter.

Malus Scheideckeri is supposed to be a hybrid between *M. spectabilis* and some unknown species, possibly *M. micromalus*. It is a small pyramidal tree with small flowers produced in great abundance, and is well worth a place in every collection of these trees.

Malus prunifolia var. *rinki*, the Apple cultivated in Japan for its fruit before the advent of foreigners and of Chinese origin, has been mentioned in former Bulletins, notably that of May 15, 1916. The wild type of this apple was discovered by Wilson in central China in 1907. From seeds sent to the Arboretum plants were raised and one of them is now blooming for the first time; it is on Bussey Hill, in the collection of Chinese Apples, Pears and Cherries. This is now a small tree about ten feet high, with flowers like those of the common Apple and fully an inch and a half across. The fruit of *rinki* is longer than broad, yellow with a reddish cheek or entirely red, and the persistent calyx is raised, and not depressed as in the common Apple. This is the wild parent of the race of Apples long cultivated in the Orient, and since it fruits freely in the hot moist valleys of central China equally as well as in the cold regions of northern Korea it may prove of value to pomologists in breeding new races of Apples.

Space does not permit even a brief mention of all the species and hybrids of all the Asiatic Crabapples in the Arboretum collection. Among them, however, are trees suitable for the avenue, park or garden, shrubs for lawn borders and the slopes of banks, all absolutely hardy in the coldest parts of New England, and all to be depended upon to produce in spring blossoms in profusion. The plants grow quickly in good soil, love to have the breezes blow freely through their branches, and many of them begin to flower and produce fruit when only a few years old. In collections like that of the Arboretum they hybridize freely, and the species can only be propagated by grafting or budding.

Asiatic Quinces. In the Shrub Collection many varieties of these plants are growing and are now in full bloom. The flowers vary from white, flesh, pink and salmon to scarlet and fiery crimson, and no group of plants has more vivid blossoms. The numerous forms are derived from the Chinese *Chaenomeles lagenaria* (better known perhaps as *Pyrus japonica*), and the true Japanese *C. japonica* (*C. Maulei*) and have been cultivated for many centuries in the gardens of China and Japan.

The earliest of the Lilacs to bloom, the Chinese *Syringa affinis* and *S. oblata*, are in flower and the collection will probably be at its best about May 24th. The red-flowered Japanese Azalea (*Rhododendron Kaempferi*) is just opening its flowers on Azalea Path, and Fothergillas, many Spiraeas, Pearl Bushes, many Honeysuckles, Barberries and other interesting plants will be in bloom when this Bulletin reaches its Boston readers.